(3) State Governments to suitably amend the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Rules to make provisions for the return of rejected beedis free of cost to beedi workers;

(4) All provident fund arrears on account of employers contributions should be paid by 31st December, 1990, failing which cases should be launched against employers for depositing not only their own contribution but also the share of employees.

Additional Supply of rice and wheat to West Bengal

*78. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request was recently received from West Bengal Government for an additional supply of rice and wheat for its public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of West Bengal had requested for enhancement of their monthly allocation of rice from 69,000 tonnes to 95,000 tonnes and that of wheat from 90,000 to 1,08,000 tonnes per month and for a special allotment of 10,000 tonnes of rice for Puja Festival.

(c) The rice allocation to the State has been enhanced to 74,000 tonnes per month from August, 1990. The request for additional allocation of 10,000 tonnes of rice for the Puja festival has also been agreed to.

Losses suffered by the Public Sector Fertilizer Units

*79. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of rise in the losses suffered by the public sector fertilizer units in the country in 1989-90 (unitwise) and what is the accumulated loss as against the loss-profit during 1988-89; and

(b) what are the reasons for the continuous losses and the manner in which Government propose to make the public sector fertilize units economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) The percentage of variation (increase/decrease) in losses by the public sector units during 1989-90 and accumulated losses as against the loss-